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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

CCO

CONFIDENTIAL  
TOP SECRET ATTACHMENT

November 14, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the Symington Subcommittee  
Interdepartmental Group

FROM: J/RM - Robert McClintock

SUBJECT: Preparations for Hearings on Taiwan.

I have stepped down as Chairman of the Interdepartmental Group. Mr. John Stevenson, the Legal Adviser, will replace me as the new Chairman.

A meeting will be held in Conference Room No. 7519 of the Operations Center, Department of State at 2 P.M. on Tuesday, November 18, to consider preparations for the Symington Subcommittee hearings on Taiwan, which commence at 10 A.M., Monday, November 24.

For the guidance of future witnesses, there is attached a Top Secret memorandum, providing guidelines established by the White House Working Group as to the handling of certain types of testimony.

Attachment:

Memorandum to Members of the Interdepartmental Group on Symington Subcommittee Hearings from Ambassador McClintock of November 14.

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State Dept. review completed

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SERIES "B"

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 14, 1969

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Interdepartmental Group  
on Symington Subcommittee Hearings

FROM: J/RM - Ambassador ~~McClintock~~

SUBJECT: General Principles established at the meeting  
of the White House Working Group on November 11,  
1969.

At a meeting of the White House Working Group on  
November 11 the following general principles were estab-  
lished:

1) The Working Group developed a formula for  
instructing witnesses regarding refusal to discuss pro-  
scribed subjects. The witnesses are simply to say that  
they have been instructed by the Secretary of State not to  
discuss these matters. If the matter is taken up with the  
Secretary or with Ambassador Green by Subcommittee members,  
their response will be that these matters are part of an  
agreement between the President and Senator Symington and  
that if necessary, Senator Symington will have to discuss  
the matter further with the President. Under no circum-  
stances is Executive Privilege to be invoked or referred  
to, and if necessary, it should specifically be denied  
that Executive Privilege is in any way involved.

2) The following guidelines are established:

a) Each Department will censor the transcript.  
The Department should decide what in the national interest  
should be classified and then censor it from the testi-  
mony. Senator Symington has repeatedly stated that it is  
up to the witness to decide what parts of his testimony  
are to be excluded from the eventual public transcript.

b) All information of an intelligence nature will  
be handled only by the Director of the CIA, the Director

TOP SECRET

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of DIA, or the Director of NSA in super-secret testimony with one copy only of the transcript, and that to be kept in the possession of the intelligence agency.

c) There will be no discussion of contingency plans. This means that the background and the implications and corollary issues of specific contingency and operational plans, whether adopted, rejected, or under consideration will not be discussed.

d) There will be no discussion of nuclear weapons deployments.

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